

Rev. py.

K-171

Comegys House
Cypress Street, Millington
c. 1790

The disastrous fire of Millington in 1904 left few structures standing which have their roots in the 18th Century. Sunset Hall and Comegys House appear to be the only surviving structures from that period. The Comegys House is especially notable because it was built so close to the road that the original front entrance and basement bulkhead are now inaccessible. Two other curious features involve the lower story of the east part of the building. There is a vertical joint between the two sections to the top of the windowheads. From that point the Flemish bond continues uninterrupted across the entire five bay facade. The other feature is an infill of old brick between the two east windows, indicating a former door. The two features together suggest an earlier structure.

Although the form is not the same as the Logan House, the plan is, with a stairhall and parlor in the taller part and a dining room in the lower. Behind the dining room a kitchen and pantry are housed in a 1 1/2 story frame, 3-bay structure which was built contemporarily with the front.

The stair in the entry hall is nearly identical to Sunset Hall, with turned newels and balusters on a closed string. The spandrel has recessed panels instead of raised. The door and window trim has crossetted heads. The parlor mantel has the same crossetted trim with paneled frieze and a course of dentils. The chamber has a simpler treatment.

The dining room has no trim dating from before the 19th Century,

but the chamber above retains an original enclosed winder to the attic, as well as a closet and plain fireplace trim. The attic over the kitchen and pantry opens from the aforementioned chamber.

Originally the dining room chamber was divided into a passage, two small rooms and the pantry chamber and was accessible from the stair landing. The kitchen chamber, half of the present space, was accessible from a ladder adjacent the fireplace. This arrangement produced five sleeping rooms plus two attics, an arrangement for a large household.

In the mid 19th Century, possibly when owned by J. H. Harle,¹ the Greek Revival architrave was added and the windows were all changed to 6/6 sash with paneled and louvered shutters. Only the dining room was altered at that time.

The name given the house is that of the owners between 1950 and 1985 – Irvin and Pearly Comegys.²

1. Martinet Map, 1860.
2. Land Records, Lib. EHP 189, fol. 339.

K-171

Comegys House, Old House at Millington

18th Century

Millington

Private

One of the oldest buildings in Millington, the Comegys house is a two part brick building with stair and mantle which are charming if rather clumsy examples of Georgian interior detailing.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K-171

100-4-10-770-1

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Old House at Millington, Comegys House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Cyprus Street

CITY, TOWN

Millington

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES, RESTRICTED☐ YES, UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Irvin Comegys

Telephone #:(301) 928-3342

STREET & NUMBER

Cyprus Street

CITY, TOWN

Millington

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: W46 16

Folio #: 758

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-171

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Comegys House is a two part brick building standing very close to the south side of Cyprus Street in Millington. The pleasantly scaled house is two storys high, five bays long with a gable roof. Its two part were evidently constructed at the same time although the floor level of the western portion of the house is about three feet lower than the floor of the larger, east portion. The facade of the building seems to tell a story of a change in plans during construction. The southern, taller portion of the house is one room deep and one, two bay room wide with side entrance and stair hall. At the joint between the two parts of the building is vertical seam about seven feet high in the brick wall. Along this line the brick pattern of the larger part of the house is finished, as Flemish bond usually is with a pattern of queen and king closers at the corner. Above this line this pattern vanishes and the wall of the two parts becomes continuous with no change in type of brick or mortar or pattern or quality of masonry.

Although both portions of the structure are covered with 90° gable roofs, there are no dormers. At both gables of the building was an enclosed chimney of brick; that in the larger part has been removed, the other has been rebuilt. Light was provided to the low attic rooms by two small square windows in the gables. Box cornices with simple crown and bed moldings finish the shingle roof, now covered with corrugated tin. There are beaded verge boards at the eaves. The light red brick of the front facade is Flemish bond; on sides and rear, the brick is common bond.

The taller, three bay portion of the house is more elegant and retains more original material. Windows are evenly placed in each bay in both front and back of the house, 6/6 sash with louvered shutters are used on the second floor; 9/9 sash windows on the first floor have two panel shutters. Small basement windows are aligned in front and rear walls in the east bays. There appears to have been a cellar entrance leading to the sidewalk in the center bay. Window trim is quite wide with a cavetto backband molding and a wooden sill. there is a 6/6 sash window centered above the front entrance in the west bay. Another similiar window at the level of the stair landing in the rear of the building has a rowlock arch.

Interestingly there is a rear entrance several feet above the ground in the stair hall. Although it appears to be original, the rear wing or porch or outbuilding it once lead to, is now gone and no evidence of its remains. Original details of the door, except a granite sill, have vanished.

The exterior entrance to the cellar is under the stair landing at the rear of the house. The opening, which may be original, has a wooden lintel.

The main entrance, now about three feet above the sidewalk, seems to date from the 1830's or 1840's. It is of the architrave type with the flat wide moldings which characterize the third decade

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-171

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This unusual little house may be one of the earliest remaining in the town of Millington. It is a modest, vernacular interpretation of the architecture of the mid to late 18th century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Society

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

7 Continued

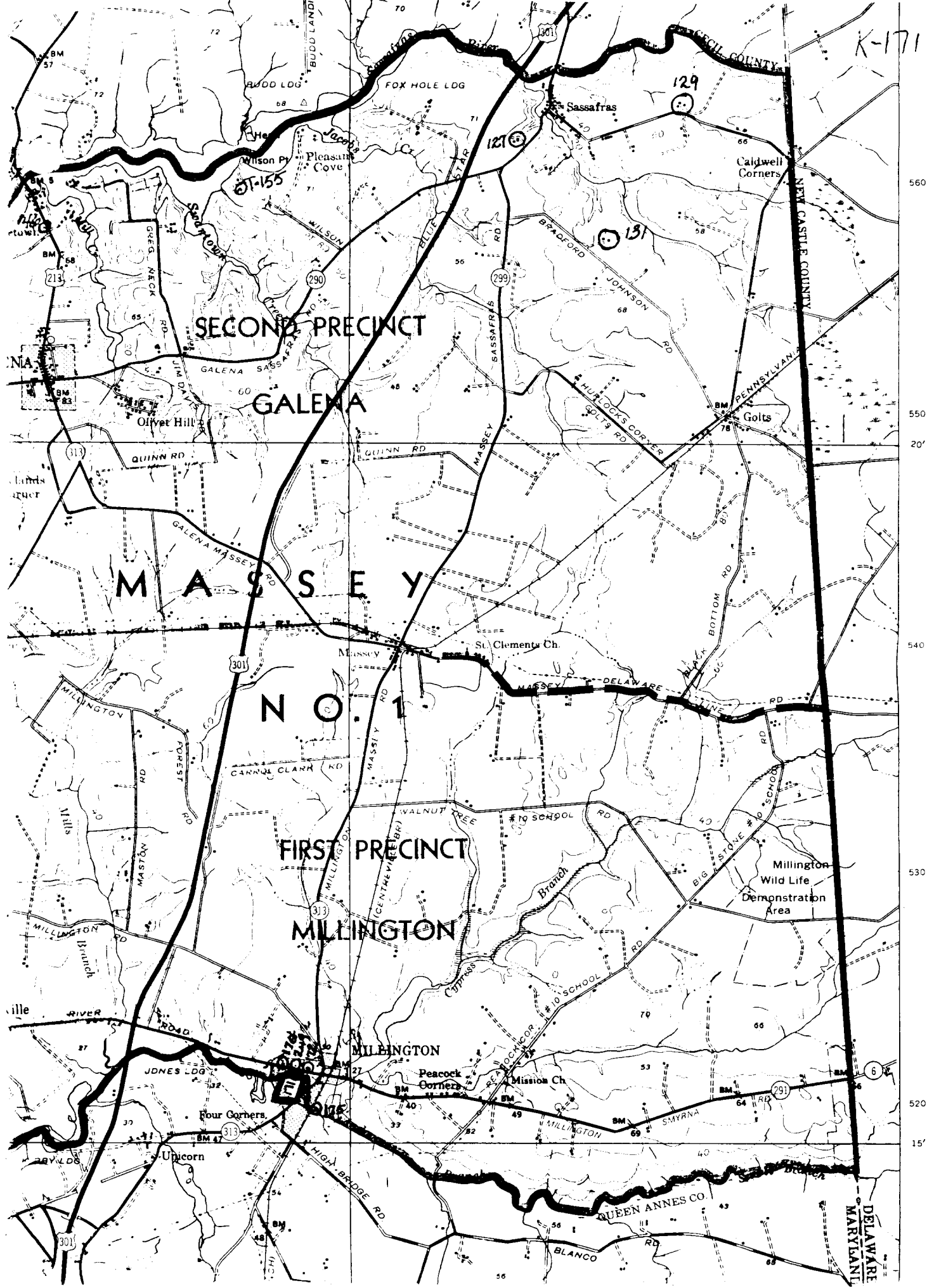
of the 19th century. There are long, flatish dentils, paneled jambs and sill and an overlight. The door has three tiers of panels. The granite sill is original. Marks in the brickwork indicate an early porch which was about five feet wide.

The smaller portion of this house has one room per floor; it is two bays wide and as deep as the main house. There are two windows per bay on both floors on the front facade. Besides the small attic windows in the gable there is one, and maybe two rear windows on the second floor. The only entrance appears to have been at the rear of the building in the west bay. This entrance has been closed and replaced by a wide opening which leads to a modern one and one-half story frame wing at the rear. There is no cellar under the addition. The four windows in the front facade have 6/6 sash and trim consisting of a fillet with shallow ogee molding. There are wooden sills and two panel shutters. These window openings, like those in the first portion, have no arches.

The small brick wing is reached by an original door in the stair hall near the main entrance and several steps. There is no early interior details in this first floor room; the mantle appears to date from the middle of the 19th century.

The main stair on the larger portion of the house is quite elaborate with rather bold turned balusters and well proportioned turned newel. The stair spandrel is enriched with raised paneling. Window and doors have crossette trim; doors have six raised and beveled panels. A mantle in the first floor room has crossettes, a paneled frieze above the rectangular opening and bold rather crudely made dentils. Wide pine boards are used as flooring.

The building, used as a single family dwelling, retains a great amount of original material but is in need of immediate and extensive repair and stabilization.





Millington, K-171

Neg # 36A

MOB

3/13/69



Comegy

MHT-15141

Mullington-Med

North Front.

C. Engstrom

Aug 1927



Cornegys - MHT - K 171

Cyprus St.

Mullington -

Rear - showing small section

C. Engstrom

aug 1977



Camegys
Cypress St
Mullington - Md.

MHT-K 171

Small side section -

C. Engstrom

Aug 1977